

Build Workers Defense Guards!

Socialist Appeal

Workers of the World Unite!

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International - Issued Twice Weekly

VOL. III, NO. 29

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1939

Set up and Printed by Union Labor Application for Label Pending

3c a Copy

HITLER DEMANDS SHARE OF SWAG

BRITAIN DRAFTS MASSES FOR WAR

AN EDITORIAL

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain has jammed through the British House of Commons a conscription law providing, for the time being, for compulsory military service of all men from the age of 20 to 21.

Except for the period of the last war's duration, England's people have been traditionally hostile to conscription. Hundreds of years have passed without the ruling class being able to put the people in the straitjacket of compulsory military service.

What none of his predecessors has dared to do for centuries, Chamberlain, violating the pledge that he publicly reaffirmed only four weeks ago, has now imposed upon the masses.

Why? In the name of Democracy and a Popular War!

But if the war is so popular, why is it necessary to force people by law—and by the police club that stands behind it—to join the army?

If the war is so popular, why doesn't the British government content itself with opening up the recruiting books to volunteers?

The truth of the matter is that nowhere, in no country, do the people want war. Everywhere they feel consciously or instinctively, that the coming war, like the last one, will be a dirty imperialist war, in which millions will die like flies in order to preserve the profits of empire.

All the ballyhoo, all the lies, all the hypocrisy, all the bunk about "democracy" and "independence of small nations" has not yet whipped the masses into a chauvinistic frenzy satisfactory to the war-mongers.

So, for the "popular" war, the masses have to be dragged into the army, conscripted like slaves whose life and liberty are entirely in the hands of the small clique of imperialists who rule the capitalist world and every country in it.

Among the first steps in the "war for democracy" is the brutal violation of the healthiest and soundest sentiments of the people.

The imperialist gangsters—in England and in this country as well as in Germany—fear the freely-expressed will of the people.

That is why they resort to conscription. That is why they refuse to allow the people the right to vote on whether or not war is to be declared.

Sailors Set to Strike On All Pacific Ports

West Coast Seamen Gird for Showdown on Government Hiring Halls

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) SAN FRANCISCO.—The Sailors Union of the Pacific is prepared to strike the West Coast unless all government agencies adhere to the written pledge given to the union by Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce, that government-sponsored fink hiring halls will be closed and stay closed.

On April 18 Admiral Land, chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission, in direct contradiction to Secretary Hopkins' promise of the previous week, announced to the press that the commission will open hiring halls in the port of Seattle when the commission begins its projected operations on the Seattle-Orient run.

Sailors Prepare Fight Immediately upon publication of the admiral's statement, the Sailors Union held stop-work meetings up and down the Pacific Coast and reiterated its previous position for a coast-wide strike if the government fink halls are opened on the coast.

S.U.P. headquarters wired Harry Hopkins, calling his attention to the fact that the Maritime Commission had publicly stated it would disregard the pledges he had made in writing to Harry Lundeberg, secretary-treasurer of the union.

Hopkins had explicitly written: "I can state that the shipping commissioner's office will not be used as a hiring hall for anyone."

and "If shipping commissioners are at the present time maintaining hiring halls, it is the intention of the Department of Commerce to discontinue this practice." In line with this, the government fink halls on the East Coast were shortly thereafter closed.

Pledge "Reinterpreted" But after Admiral Land's statement and the union's wire to Hopkins, the Department of Commerce appears to have adopted a new position. Hopkins himself failed to answer the union's wire. Instead Davis K. Niles, assistant to Hopkins, informed the union that "the Department of Commerce is not using hiring halls, but as the secretary wrote you we will, in accordance with the law, furnish lists of seamen to those entitled to have them. Instructions to this effect have already been sent to all U. S. Shipping Commissioners."

In plain English, the shipping commissioners of the Bureau of Inspection affiliated to the Department of Commerce will continue registering sailors for employment but the actual hiring halls will be run by the Maritime Commission, which is formally not part of the Department of Commerce but is a president-appointed body "to encourage the merchant marine."

That's the scheme. But the sailors are determined that no governmental agency shall operate fink halls.

The Kind of Democracy "We" Uphold



FLINT WORKERS PROTEST CUTS IN WPA, RELIEF

Demonstrators Demand War Funds Go to Unemployed

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) FLINT, Mich., April 25.—A militant, fighting throng of unemployed and W.P.A. workers marched into the city hall of Flint last night in a well-organized demonstration, demanding immediate alleviation of the miserable conditions inflicted upon welfare clients and W.P.A. workers.

The demonstration, which was called and led by the W.P.A. and Unemployed section of the United Auto Workers Union (C.I.O.), was an effective mass protest against the 2 1/2¢ meal relief level, and the firing of hundreds of W.P.A. workers.

City Manager Pollock was singled out for special attention by the marching, singing demonstrators, who attacked his vicious anti-labor actions and condemned his threats that he would see to it that all "agitators" were fired from W.P.A. The members of the United Auto Workers Union (C.I.O.) packed the city hall meeting of the City Commission, overflowing into the hall, the stairs, and the adjoining rooms.

Hundreds Mass Halls While the U.A.W.-C.I.O. spokesmen, C. Walters of Detroit, Claude Workman and Kermit Johnson of Flint, (Continued from Page 2)

Mine Owners Forcing National Coal Tie-up

Operators Press Drive to Break Union Grip; Would Try to Impose Open Shop

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) WASHINGTON, D.C.—The drive against the C.I.O. through attacks on the United Mine Workers of America which already has 320,000 members on strike, gained further impetus this week when hard coal operators revealed their intentions of forcing 100,000 anthracite miners on a defensive strike.

The contract between the miners and the hard coal operators expires Sunday night (April 31) and a strike was considered inevitable in view of the arrogant counter-demands of the operators. Among the provocative proposals they issued to the United Mine Workers negotiating committee are: reduction in wages, lengthening of hours; inclusion of a penalty clause against strikes, etc.

Unless Roosevelt intervention comes quicker than government officials planned, prospect of a nation-wide shut down of the entire coal industry, bituminous and anthracite, is certain for next week.

The hard-boiled attitude of the anthracite operators verifies reports that powerful utility, steel and other industrial forces are pressing on the coal industry to drive for an open shop and the defeat of the U.M.W.A., stronghold of the C.I.O.

The present strike of the 320,000 soft coal miners centers around the operators refusal to give the U.M.W.A. a

closed shop that would exclude the A.F. of L. miners' union from the industry and thus prevent an internecine war costly to all the workers.

Since John L. Lewis announced that 100,000 additional soft coal miners were being called out next week in support of the strikers it was believed that the threat would serve to force a less recalcitrant attitude on the part of the operators.

Instead, they have been joined in a solid front by the anthracite operators who are deliberately forcing the U.M.W.A. division in this section of the industry to pull a defensive strike.

Hit at C.I.O.

Because the U.M.W.A. is the organizational and financial backbone of the C.I.O., it is evident that the coal operators hope to weaken the entire C.I.O. movement through a prolonged and costly struggle with the U.M.W.A. Financial backing from Wall Street interests makes this possible.

In present negotiations between the anthracite operators and the miners' committee the operators proposed a 20 per cent reduction in wages and the return of the eight-hour day.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the soft coal operators and representatives of the 320,000 strikers were deadlocked despite intervention of a federal conciliator.

Omits Mentioning Russia In Speech Rebuffing FDR

One Third of W.P.A. To Be Fired by July 1

Republicans and Democrats Find They Have No Differences in Hacking Away At Relief Appropriations

One out of every three workers now on W.P.A. will be fired by July 1, if President Roosevelt has his way.

With the ink scarcely dry on his signature to a whole new series of armament appropriations obediently voted at his behest by Congress, running into some six hundreds of millions of dollars added to the billions already appropriated for the war machine, President Roosevelt sought to slash the relief appropriation for the coming year by one-third, to provide him with more war funds.

W.P.A. officials, according to the United Press, April 28, "planned today to remove 900,000 persons from the relief rolls this summer to compensate for the reduced budget for the next fiscal year" proposed by Roosevelt in his message to Congress last Thursday.

Republicans Hail Roosevelt

For the coming fiscal year which begins July 1, Roosevelt limited the appropriation to \$1,477,000,000 as contrasted with the expenditure of \$2,250,000,000 during the present fiscal year. Roosevelt's figure is a straight one-third cut of the figure for the amount expended during the previous year.

Republican members of the "economy bloc" hailed Roosevelt's message. Senator Lodge declared that he "congratulated the President on adopting the method recommended by the Republican members of this committee"—the Senate Committee on Relief and Unemployment.

43% Cut Since October

The extent of Roosevelt's onslaught against the unemployed may be realized if one takes into account the W.P.A. rolls in October stood at 3,350,000 before the President ordered reduction of the rolls to their present figure of 2,800,000. If the W.P.A. officials carry out their declared intention of dropping 900,000 more, it means that since October they will have thrown off the W.P.A. a total of 1,450,000—more than 43% of those on W.P.A. in October will be out on the streets!

Since employment in private industry has actually decreased since October, President Roosevelt was unable to justify his proposals by any references to improved possibilities of employment. Instead, he blandly prophesied that "barring unforeseen and unpredictable developments, we are justified in expecting an upward trend in the volume of employment between now and June 30, 1940."

No Justification

Even the ardently pro-Roosevelt New York Post was shocked into editorially characterizing the Roosevelt proposal in the following terms: "How did the President reach this figure of 2,000,000 as the correct number of

W.P.A. jobs to be maintained?

"On what is it based, other than the hope expressed in the message that 'we are justified in expecting an upward trend in the volume of employment'?"

"Why should the President expect an upward trend in the volume of employment when nearly a million families will be reduced, if they fail to get private jobs, to home relief status or outright destitution? How will the removal of these customers from our economic system produce 'an upward trend'?"

The Post declared that "by giving a job to every American able and willing to work," we "would be meeting the problem, not juggling numbers."

President Confuses Issue

The President's message was shrewdly timed. It was delivered on the eve of Hitler's speech, obviously with the motive of having it get by with a minimum of publicity at a time when it would be soon overshadowed by reports and discussion of Hitler's speech.

Roosevelt also sought to cover himself by joining his relief cuts proposal with a denunciation of the various reactionary proposals for reorganizing the W.P.A. or shifting it to state administrations—a deliberately confusing juncture of unrelated issues, for the question of relief administration is to come up separately from the question of the amount of relief appropriations.

Washington reporters noted that the ringleaders of the reactionary proponents, Senator Byrnes and Representative Woodrum, as well as others, found Roosevelt's slashes satisfactory and were therefore free to concentrate hereafter on proposals for revamping the relief mechanism.

Stalinists Mum

The so-called W.P.A. "union" the Workers Alliance, tied hand and foot to Roosevelt by its Stalinist leadership, and the Stalinist press, took the proposed slashes without comment.

But this latest brazen move of the President will undoubtedly serve to clear the air. His sham battle with the "economy bloc" over the question whether the cut in the present fiscal year should have been the one billion dollar cut initiated by the President, or the one billion plus \$150,000,000 proposed by the reactionaries—the "battle" ended with an amicable agreement between the "New Deal" and the reactionaries on a compromise which left the final cut at one billion plus \$50,000,000—confused the issue previously. Now the President has openly gone to the head of the forces seeking the maximum slashing of the relief system.

POISON DINNER

Investigation of a dinner served at a welfare agency in Seattle was ordered after one man died and six others were treated at hospitals. The stricken men blamed home preserved peas for the food poisoning. It's now got so that charity food not only tastes like poison, but is!

Swaps Demagogy With Roosevelt; Leaves Door Wide Open

AGAIN ASKS DANZIG

Hitler's Reichstag speech changed little in the continuing war crisis.

The most notable feature of the speech was the absence from it of any significant reference to the Soviet Union.

This striking parallel to Stalin's abandonment of attacks on German Fascism was further eloquent proof of the fact that the flirtation between Berlin and Moscow is by no means at an end.

Hitler concentrated his oratorical fire on the Western powers and the United States.

As everybody, including Roosevelt, expected, Hitler turned down Roosevelt's "peace" plea and reiterated his intention to restore Germany's "peace in the sun" by fighting for it, if necessary.

As his answer to Britain's conscription to its working youth for the war slaughter, Hitler abrogated the Anglo-German naval pact of 1935. This pact was already a dead letter as a result of Hitler's extensive naval building during the past two years.

Pressure on Poland

Heralding increased German pressure on Poland, the Fuehrer at the same time denounced the German-Polish non-aggression pact of 1934 and repeated his demand for the return of Danzig and a road across the Polish corridor.

He served notice on Britain that he would continue to seek return of Germany's colonies, taken from her by the Allied victors after the last war.

Matching Rooseveltian demagogy with his own brand, Hitler swore up and down in his two and a half hour speech that war was the last thing he wanted, that he more than anyone else in the world was solicitous for the people and desired to spare them new slaughters.

Uses Versailles Treaty

As usual, he was able to buttress his arguments by throwing the Versailles treaty into the faces of his adversaries. From the point of view of the imperialist gangsters, of course, he is here on solid ground, for never was there a more monstrous piece of large scale international piracy than that embodied in the treaties which the Allies forced on vanquished Germany in 1919. German imperialism, defeated in one war, is now challenging its imperialist rivals again and the Western European politicians are belatedly learning that at Versailles they gave birth to a Frankenstein monster which now threatens to prove their undoing.

Hitler could and did cite the endless record of British, French, and American rapacity in their own campaigns against defenseless colonial and semi-colonial peoples, before and after the last Great War.

Dog Eat Dog

Nothing more clearly than this shows the dog-eat-dog nature of the war crisis. The Hitlers, the Roosevelts, Mussolinis, Chamberlains and Daladier are not talking about "democracy" and "human rights" and "culture." Speak (Continued on Page 3)

S. W. P. CALLS ANTI-WAR CONVENTION

In accordance with the powers and duties assigned to it by the party constitution, the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party hereby issues this Call to the regular national convention of the party, to be held in New York City, July 1 to 5, 1939. The agenda proposed by the Committee, together with regulations for the election of delegates, has been sent to all party branches. The Committee furthermore declares the time between now and the date of the convention to be a period of free discussion by the party membership of any and all issues, whether previously acted upon by the party or newly proposed. Discussion articles submitted to the national office will be promptly published either in the public party press or in special internal bulletins.

During the past months, the crisis of world civilization has deepened to an intolerable sharpness. Every sphere of

human activity—economic, social, political, cultural—trembles to its foundations. Summing up and focussing every conflict, there looms before mankind the immediate threat of the new world war. The savage imperialist powers and the brutal class that directs their destinies can find no other means for prolonging their rule than by plunging men once more and on an unprecedented scale into an international slaughter-house.

This coming war, like the last, in spite of the lying demagogy which tries to dress it up in moral ideals, will be, from the point of view of all the imperialist states, democratic and fascist alike, nothing else than a gangster struggle for resources, markets, colonies and possessions, for the chief privileges in exploiting and oppressing the great masses of

(Continued on Page 3)